

BOOK NOTICES

D.M.J.S. BOWMAN. 2000. **Australian Rainforests: Islands of Green in a Land of Fire.** (ISBN 0-521-46568-0, hbk.). Cambridge University Press, The Edinburgh Bldg., Cambridge CB2 2RU, U.K. (Orders: 40 West 20th St., New York, NY 10011-4211, U.S.A. www.cup.org, www.cup.cam.ac.uk). \$85.00, 345 pp., b/w photos, line drawings, graphs, 6" × 9".

Contents: **1)** Introduction; **2)** What is Australian rainforest?; **3)** The sclerophyll problem; **4)** The edaphic theory I. The control of rainforest by soil phosphorus; **5)** The edaphic theory II. Soil types, drainage, and fertility; **6)** The climate theory I. Water stress; **7)** The climate theory II. Light and temperature; **8)** The fire theory I. Field evidence; **9)** The fire theory II. Fire, nutrient cycling, and topography; **10)** The fire theory III. Fire frequency, succession, and ecological drift; **11)** The fire theory IV. Aboriginal landscape burning; **12)** The fire theory V. Aridity and the evolution of flammable forests; **13)** The fire theory VI. Fire management and rainforest conservation; **14)** Summary; followed by References and Index.

RAY L. SPECHT and ALISON SPECHT. 2002. **Australian Plant Communities: Dynamics of Structure, Growth and Biodiversity.** (ISBN 0-19-551654-0, pbk.). Oxford University Press, Department REF, 198 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10016, U.S.A. (Orders: 2001 Evans Road, Cary, NC 27513, U.S.A. 800-451-7556, fax 919-677-1303). \$40.00, 492 pp., b/w photos, line drawings, graphs, 6" × 9".

Contents: **Part 1** Australian plant communities: Description: **1)** Energy/biomass system; **2)** Dynamics; **3)** Structural classification; **4)** Floristic classification; **5)** Australian plant communities during the Late Cretaceous; **6)** Australian plant communities during the Cainozoic; **7)** Australian plant communities today; **8)** Aboriginal impact; **Part 2** Australian plant communities: Community physiology; **9)** Energetics; **10)** Temperature; **11)** Evaporative aerodynamics; **12)** Available water; **13)** Ecophysiological leaf attributes; **14)** Waterlogging; **15)** Nutrient deficiencies; **16)** Nutrient toxicities; **17)** Biodiversity and energetics; **18)** Monitoring; 19) Scientific management; References; Systematic Index; and General Index.

The authors believe this book will be an invaluable reference for practicing environmental scientists, planners, and managers. It will also be an excellent text for undergraduate and graduate course in environmental science, resource management, and environmental planning and impact assessment.